

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 178

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Harold Gilbert of Sumner County for his many outstanding accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those estimable Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as leaders in their community;

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. Harold Gilbert, who has made outstanding contributions to the betterment of this State in a number of arenas, most prominently in the fields of politics, education, and the music industry; and

WHEREAS, a vital member of the Sumner County community, Mr. Gilbert, over a twenty-one-year period, was the first African-American to hold the elected positions of Justice of the Peace, Magistrate, and County Commissioner, and he was also the first African-American to chair the Sumner County Committee on Committees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gilbert spent more than forty years in education and was involved with the legislation of the educational trends of integration, collective bargaining, and merit pay; he also represented Sumner County on the State Testing Advisory Committee, which provided the basics for the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP); and

WHEREAS, for twenty-four years, Mr. Gilbert served as the Sumner County or State delegate to the National Education Association Representative Assembly; nationally, he served on the board of examiners for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education; and

WHEREAS, a gifted individual with diverse talents and abilities, Harold Gilbert has also been a musical composer, producer, record company executive, and performer, with many firsts on the local and national music scene;

WHEREAS, as a staff songwriter at Tree Publishing Company, Mr. Gilbert penned “You Better Change,” which was featured on *Nashville: Music City Rhythm and Blues, 1945-1970, Volume Two*, which won a Grammy Award as best historical recording of 2004; and

WHEREAS, as a performer, Mr. Gilbert joined with his wife to form the duo Hal & Jean; together they toured with many lauded musicians, including Jimi Hendrix; Dionne Warwick, Jackie Wilson, and Curtis Mayfield; they were also featured on the ground-breaking 1960s all-black Nashville-produced program *Night Train*; and

WHEREAS, with characteristic humility, Mr. Gilbert credits his success to his family, church, and teachers, especially those African-American educators who taught him when schools were still segregated, and;

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Harold Gilbert has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, his community, and all who have had the privilege of knowing him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mr. Harold Gilbert, for his ardor and diligence in education, entertainment, and community service. We applaud him for his laudable service to the people of Tennessee and wish him every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.